

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.  
THE RETREAT FROM MARYLAND.  
THE REBELS OVERTAKEN

Fighting Renewed in Virginia.

SEVERE CONTESTS AGAIN.

THE ADVANTAGE ON OUR SIDE.

A Whole Rebel Brigade Captured.

Additional Accounts of the Recent Battles

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21, 1862.

We have just received a brief dispatch from one of your special correspondents, who returned this afternoon to Frederick on our advance lines.

Heavy firing was going on all day yesterday, he says, both commanding and musketry, and many wounded men were being brought in.

Our troops had crossed the Potomac in large force, and were fighting on the other side. The rest of the army had advanced to the river.

In the fighting, so far, we had decidedly the advantage of the Rebels.

Yesterday we captured a whole brigade of them, 2,000 in number.

This your correspondent asserts upon the testimony of his own eyes. When he left the field at midnight of Saturday, the firing had not ceased.

The Retreat of the Rebels.

FREDERICK, Md., Sunday, Sept. 20, 1862.

HEADQUARTERS, STRATEGY DIVISION.

The 4th Michigan, with a few men from Syke's brigade, crossed the river at Shepherdstown Ford late yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of making a reconnaissance. They met with a stout resistance from the enemy, but succeeded in reaching this side of the river with but slight loss, bringing with them four pieces of artillery which they took from the Rebels.

The occupation of the Virginia shore was attempted again this morning, with less success. Acting Brig.-Gen. Barnes, with his own and a portion of Syke's brigade, some cavalry, and two batteries, crossed the river and took a position on the Virginia shore.

Shortly after the troops had been placed in position, the enemy emerged from under the cover of woods, with a line of infantry nearly a mile long. Both troops soon became engaged, when the order was given to retire, which was done in good order, the enemy following close behind. When the enemy came within range, fire was opened with several pieces of our artillery, posted on the Maryland bank, with such effect that they were forced to retire out of range. Their loss from our artillery fire must have been heavy, as the explosion of our shells was seen to make large gaps in their lines. Our loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners will reach about 150. The troops safely returned to Maryland, bringing their wounded with them.

Information was received to-day of the evacuation of Harper's Ferry by the Rebels.

Their artillery was removed from the line of the Potomac last night, and it is believed their army is falling back in the direction of Charlestown and Winchester.

In the action to-day, Col. Provost of the 118th Pennsylvania was wounded. Also, Capt. Ricketts and Lieut. McKean. Among the killed were Capt. Lander and Lieut. White.

It was reported that a force of Rebel cavalry and artillery had left in the direction of Williamsport, and a force was sent in that direction this morning. Heavy firing was heard in that direction to-night, which shows that they have become engaged.

REPORTS RECEIVED ON SATURDAY.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Sept. 20, 1862.

One of our telegraph operators who returned to Harper's Ferry yesterday reports that there are very few Rebels in that vicinity. He was fired at while replacing the wire over the river. The railroad bridge at Harper's Ferry was destroyed several days ago. A report came to him that another bridge, also on the Baltimore and Ohio road, some distance above, was destroyed yesterday. This operator is the only Union force now in occupation of Harper's Ferry. He heard considerable firing and heavy cannonading up the river.

A private dispatch from an officer on Gen. McClellan's staff says of the battle on Wednesday that it was a fair stand-up fight, in which neither army flinched. He expresses the opinion that the Rebels outnumbered us. He says that we drove them slowly back, but adds that ours could not be regarded as a decisive victory, especially taking into account the cowardly surrender of Harper's Ferry. Few prisoners were taken on either side, except in cases where their bravery had carried the men too far within the hostile lines. The dispatch speaks of the generalship, good conduct, and bravery of Gen. Hooker and Sedgwick as beyond all praise, and deplores the wounds which forced them to leave the field.

Admiral Foote has arrived to take charge of his bureau in the Navy Department, and will bring his family here next week.

To the Associated Press.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Saturday Morning, Aug. 20, 1862.

The Rebel army has succeeded in making its escape from Maryland. They commenced to leave about dusk on Thursday evening, and by daylight yesterday morning were all over, except a small rear guard. They saved all their transportation and carried off all their wounded but about 300. Between 300 and 400 Rebel stragglers were taken during the day by Gen. Pleasanton's cavalry, who took the advance.

Nearly every house in Sharpsburg was struck by our shells. Two were burnt, and also a large barn located in the center of the town. The citizens who remained escaped injury by staying in their cellars. One child was killed. Two Rebels, while cooking their supper on Tuesday, were killed by one of our shots passing through the kitchen.

The name given to this battle is the Antietam. After our forces occupied the whole field, the Rebels were found to be far greater, particularly in killed, than was at first supposed. Fully 2,500 were found lying on the field, while a larger number had been buried the day before by their friends.

Their loss in killed and wounded will not come far from 18,000 to 20,000.

Gen. Stark of the Rebel army, was killed, and Gen. Ripley, Walker, and Hayne, were wounded.

The Rebels, on Thursday night, burnt the railroad bridge and several houses at Harper's Ferry.

The citizens of Sandy Hook were fleeing into the country on Thursday night to escape being impressed into the Rebel service and carried into Virginia.

New-York Tribune.

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NEW-YORK, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1862.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

Large details of men were made this morning to bury the remaining dead, which have become offensive.

The troops are all in excellent spirits at the result. The Rebels are still visible on the opposite shore in force. They have posted a large amount of artillery to prevent our troops from crossing the river.

The officers of this army are unanimously of the opinion that Gen. Hooker, for his gallantry and bravery, should be made a Brigadier-General in the regular army, made vacant by the death of Gen. Mansfield.

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The following dispatch just received from a special army correspondent of The Baltimore American, from Keatsville via Frederick, Sept. 19, says:

"The Rebel army retreated during Thursday night toward the Potomac River. Gen. McClellan's army was all in motion at an early hour this morning prepared to renew its offensive operations against the enemy. By 10 o'clock every road was crowded with our troops and trains moving toward the Potomac, across the Antietam Creek bridge, from which our troops from the position I occupied appeared to be moving, mainly along the Sharpsburg and Williamsport roads."

"Many conflicting reports were received during the day of skirmishing with the rear guard of the enemy, who were in full flight toward the Potomac. A gentleman who left Gen. McClellan's headquarters before the General started, informed me at 4 o'clock, that Gen. Burnside had crossed the Potomac and was harassing the Rebels' rear."

"The latest reports received are that the Rebels were forced to destroy a large portion of their trains and spike and abandon much of their artillery, to prevent it falling into our hands, so closely were they pursued by the Union army."

"Gen. McClellan rode out toward the front at 11 o'clock, and was loudly and enthusiastically cheered by the troops as he rode along. The cheering of his troops could be heard a great distance."

FREDERICK, Md., Sunday, Sept. 20, 1862.

A gentleman who left Boonsborough last night says that the firing was between ours and the Rebel batteries across the river, the latter endeavoring to check our pursuit at the river banks.

On Thursday the Rebels sent in a flag of truce, and asked for a suspension of hostilities to enable them to bury their dead. This was granted by Gen. McClellan, but, in contravention of the customs of war, they merely made a show of burying the killed, and used the time thus obtained to cross their wagons and artillery and the main body of their army, leaving a strong rear guard and picket force to cover the movement.

On Friday morning it was found that they were nearly all across the river on the Virginia side, with their artillery planted so as to command the ford.

The rear guard of their army evacuated Sharpsburg at midnight on Thursday night. Our advance entered the town at 5 o'clock the next morning. Griffin's Brigade, of Gen. Morell's Division, was the first to enter. They were rapturously received by the inhabitants as they passed through. The place was completely festooned with the Stars and Stripes, which the citizens had preserved from the desecrating hands of the Rebels by burying them in the cellars during their occupation of the place. The ladies and children sitting at the doors of the houses were almost covered in the folds of the national banner. As the Rebels had almost completely despoiled everything in the place in the shape of provisions, our soldiers did not fare as well as they otherwise would. Some of the people, however, had succeeded in hiding a portion of their provisions, and these were brought forth and generously distributed among their deliverers.

The town of Sharpsburg suffered considerable damage from our shelling in the battle of Wednesday. Two churches were much injured, and several barns set on fire and consumed. The only loss of life among the inhabitants was that of a little girl, who was killed by a piece of shell. The large stone house of Mr. Kietz was the refuge of fifty-seven women and children, who lived principally in the cellar during the stay of the Rebels.

Gen. Pleasanton, with his division of cavalry and four batteries of flying artillery, had meantime overtaken the rear guard of the enemy in their retreat across the river, and captured three hundred prisoners. They continued the pursuit still further toward the river, where they were opened upon by the Rebel batteries from the side, forcing them to withdraw for shelter. Gen. Syke's division of regulars came to the support of the cavalry, throwing out skirmishers toward the river, when the heavy guns of Hazard and Benjamin, twenty-pounder Parrots, opened upon the Rebel position, and shelled them away.

During the day our army was moved to the river, and there encamped. During last night everything was quiet, the enemy making no demonstration against us. In fact, they were not in a condition to warrant any such movement, and were but too glad to be let alone.

The dawn light of this morning disclosed the artillery of the enemy still in position upon the opposite side of the Potomac. Opposite to them our guns were fronting them menacingly. The first crossing was effected by a force of cavalry, but our batteries were not in a position to protect them, and they were forced to withdraw. The infantry, however, succeeded better, and after fording the river they threw out pickets, or rather skirmishers, for a mile, without meeting with opposition. By this movement six guns of the Rebels were captured, which were taken across, and are now placed in a position to harass their late owners. The Rebels at first repelled with considerable vigor to our artillery, but as they merely designed to cover their retreat they were more anxious to prevent the crossing of the river than to annoy or silence our batteries.

The river is swollen somewhat by the late rain, and fording is a rather serious business. The ford at which the Rebels crossed is directly opposite Shepherdstown, two miles from Sharpsburg. But one wagon could cross at a time, it being very narrow, with deep water each side of it; but as their wagon train was not very large, they managed to get everything over. With the exception of the skirmishing above mentioned there has been no fighting since Wednesday.

The inquiry is universal in the army as to where the Union force reported to be on the Virginia side of the Potomac can be, that they do not intercept the Rebels in their retreat. Could they be attacked in front and rear, their treacherous course, in availing themselves of an armistice granted them to bury their dead to secure their escape, would avail them but little.

In Wednesday's fight, the Rebel Generals Stark and Lawton were killed. Gen. Lee acknowledged

that they lost 10,000 in killed and wounded in that battle. When the Rebel army entered Sharpsburg, they were in such an exhausted and starved condition that some of them, who were unable to procure food, actually wept from hunger, exhaustion, and disappointment.

PHILADELPHIA, Saturday, Sept. 20, 1862.

A dispatch from Frederick to-day says:

I am just in from the front of our army. The Rebels succeeded in crossing their entire army at Blackford's Ford, three miles east of Sharpsburg, between the hours of 9 o'clock on Thursday night and daybreak on Friday morning. This morning we were engaged in shelling the woods on the opposite bank of the river, preparatory to crossing. The Rebels have planted batteries at Williamsport, on the opposite side of the Potomac, to prevent the right wing of our army from crossing. The roads are lined with guns, haversacks, blankets, &c., of the Rebels. We caused great slaughter among them."

PHILADELPHIA, Saturday, Sept. 20, 1862.

Our wounded are being cared for in the best way possible; but there is nothing like enough doctors here.

Capt. Myers of the 14th New-York Regiment was wounded.

The 14th Connecticut Regiment lost largely. Five color-bearers were shot while it was engaged. Capt. Willard was killed. The regiment held their position for half an hour under a heavy cross fire, and finally fell back to a better position.

The 34th New-York Regiment were flanked by two Rebel regiments, but they succeeded in cutting their way out, although losing many men in doing so.

Col. Hinks of the 7th Massachusetts Regiment, who had just returned to his command, after getting well of the wounds he received at Nelson's Farm, was again badly wounded while at the head of his regiment.

Major Bloomer of the 5th Maryland Regiment was wounded in the thigh. Captain Bamberger was wounded in the breast. Lieutenant Matley was killed. This regiment lost heavily.

Colonel Childs of the 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry, acting as brigadier-general, was killed while rallying his men.

Captain Watson of the 1st Delaware Regiment was killed. Captain Richards was killed. Captain Yardly was badly wounded. Captain Woodell was badly wounded. Lieutenant Gemmell was badly wounded. Lieutenant Shaffer was wounded in the face. Lieutenant-Colonel Hopkinson was wounded.

General Max Weber was wounded while leading his men into the fight.

Lieutenant Wilson of the 108th New-York Regiment sprained his back in getting over a fence, in his hurry to chase the enemy.

Major Force, of Rochester of the 108th New-York was killed.

Major Tarbox of the 108th New-York was killed.

Lieut. Draper, aid to Gen. Richardson, received a ball in each leg.

Lieut. Mackey of Gen. Meagher's staff was wounded.

The 11th Pennsylvania Reserves were badly cut up.

Capt. Kiser was wounded.

Lieut. Rosinger of the 130th Pennsylvania Regiment was wounded in the leg.

Lieut. Jones was wounded in the leg.

Gen. Dana was wounded.

Lieut. Jas. M. Welsh of the Pennsylvania Bucktail Regiment was mortally wounded.

Maj. Crose of the 2d Pennsylvania Reserves was killed.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Sept. 20, 1862.

There is a rumor in circulation here, brought by a "reliable gentleman" from Hagerstown, that the entire Rebel army under Stonewall Jackson had surrendered. He represents the loss of the Rebels at from twenty to thirty thousand, and says that their army was totally demoralized.

There seems to be quite a difference of opinion in regard to the whereabouts of the Rebel army in official circles.

Wounded soldiers arriving here represent the Rebels as completely hemmed in. They say that Gen. McClellan's right and left wings rest on the Potomac, while Generals Sigel and Ricketts are keeping a lookout for them on the opposite side.

The State militia lately sent to Hagerstown and Boonsborough were this afternoon sent back into Pennsylvania.

Report says that our pickets were this morning driven in three miles outside of Hagerstown, and that skirmishing had been kept up throughout the whole day.

REPORTS RECEIVED ON SUNDAY.

From the Battle-Field.

By Special Messenger to the Associated Press.

BATTLE-FIELD OF ANTIETAM, Saturday, Sept. 20, 1862.

Yesterday our lines advanced toward the enemy, when the discovery was made that the entire Rebel army had retreated during the night, leaving their pickets along the entire line so as to prevent us from gaining a knowledge of their movements until they had accomplished their purpose. Those left behind to perform this duty generally surrendered as soon as our skirmishers appeared. It seems, from statements of residents of Sharpsburg and vicinity, that Rebel re-enforcements were expected on Friday, but they did not arrive, and consequently it was decided to cross the river, as they were in no condition for such a battle as that of the 17th inst. So they commenced leaving at dark on Thursday night, and the rear of the line passed through Sharpsburg just before daylight yesterday morning. They crossed the river at different points in the vicinity of Sharpsburg, as there are several fords within two miles of that place, although the contrary has been represented.

Our cavalry started in pursuit as soon as the retreat was known, but beyond capturing a few hundred stragglers, they succeeded in inflicting but little injury upon the enemy.

About a mile from the river, quite a contest took place between a part of Gen. Porter's corps, which were in the advance, and the enemy, for the possession of two guns, which they seemed unable to move fast enough. They were finally compelled to abandon them, one of which they spiked.

Their trains have all got off, notwithstanding, it is said, their horses were completely worn out. They seem to have taken a position on the other side of the Potomac, but they did not reply to our guns this afternoon, with the exception of three or four shots.

An attempt was made to cross and flank them, but they were in too good a position to be attacked with success.

A Union man named Hughes came in from Williamsport this afternoon, and reports that a large force of the

enemy had crossed this morning at that place, but he could not say how many. For fear he might be caught, he left in haste, and therefore did not count them. He said about 2,000 cavalry and 1,000 infantry were on this side, and the column was still coming over, the rear not being visible. According to another report, it was only a small party sent over to forage and harass the inhabitants. With this exception the soil of Maryland is free from the invader, a result which all expected at an early day, though few thought such a thing possible before another great battle.

The retreat of an army so large as that of the Rebels, in the face of one like our own, was certainly creditable to its commanders, especially when it is considered they met with but slight loss while it was being consummated. One thing, however, was in its favor, which was that they had Antietam Creek in their front about half the length of their line, over which our troops could not cross but at one point.

It was at this bridge that Gen. Pleasanton's cavalry made such a splendid dash across in the face of a fire from several batteries planted to sweep it from different points, and which rained a perfect shower of shell upon it, while our troops were crossing, most of which fortunately did not explode. As soon as the cavalry crossed, they were followed by Gen. Syke's division of regulars, in support of three batteries—Tidball's, Gibson's and Robinson's—which, after getting into position, shelled the Rebels at this point, and relieved Gen. Sumner's corps from a fire from which they would have otherwise been compelled to fall back.

Some of the most desperate fighting ever recorded in history took place on this field. In passing over the ground to-day the evidence was manifested where the most deadly contests occurred, the dead and dying lying thick and in rows where they had fallen on the enemy's center.

Three lines of battle had been formed from a point west of the Hagerstown turnpike across the road and several fields to near the Boonsborough turnpike—a distance of about half a mile—and these lines were almost as distinct as when the living masses still formed them, the dead lying so close as to be nearly within reach of one another's hands along the entire distance, while in many places they lay one upon another. The enemy at this point were attacked by King's, Ricketts's, and Sedgwick's divisions, and the Rebels, although maintaining their ground for a time, were compelled to give way, their loss being frightfully large. Duryee's brigade, which opened this attack, lost above half its force, but maintained its position until relieved by fresh troops. Its loss in officers was as follows: Capt. Kelly of 10th New-York, Lieut. Buckley of 10th New-York, killed; Lieut. Col. Carroll, Capt. Bradley, Major Shedd, and Lieut. Doolittle of 10th, and Capt. Tuttle, Lieut. Dow, and Lieut. Wilson of 10th, and Lieut. Delano of 94th, wounded. This brigade lost 432 in killed and wounded, out of about 850 who went into action.

The enemy's loss in killed at this part of the field was at least two to our one, and many were of the opinion it would average the same all over the battle-ground. This is accounted for by the fact that our men fire high, while the Rebels seem to be particularly instructed to fire low. The prisoners say they always like to meet a regiment of Zouaves, with red trousers, as these serve as distinctive marks. In evidence of this, take the casualties of the 14th Brooklyn and 5th New-York regiments, three-fourths of the casualties among them, in every battle, being in the lower limbs.

At a piece of woods where they made a stand, after being driven back, Gorman's Brigade of Sedgwick's Division suffered heavy loss, having 894 killed and wounded; about half of their entire number. One regiment, the 15th Massachusetts, had 600 on going into the fight, and were only able to muster 268 after they came out of it. The officers killed and wounded in this regiment are Capt. C. S. Simonds, Lieut. R. Derby, Lieut. F. S. Corbin, killed; and Lieut. W. Gale, Lieut. L. B. Ellingwood, Capt. W. Forehand, Lieut. T. J. Spurr, Capt. Bartlett, Capt. Jocelyn, and Lieut. A. J. Bradley, all slightly wounded.

The division succeeded in driving the enemy from the woods, and held it for more than an hour, but were finally compelled to abandon it and fall back. This is the only part of the field we gained from which our troops were compelled to retire. Those who fell at this spot were found stripped of their clothing by the Rebels, some bodies being entirely naked.

At a spot near the church, on the center of the battle-field, a Major, two Lieutenants, and three privates were found dead, having been torn to pieces by a shell. The church in almost every part was riddled with balls.

In the haste of the retreat, the enemy left above five hundred of their wounded at houses and barns where they had established hospitals, and very few of their dead were buried excepting officers, their graves being found in corn-fields, in the rear of their lines. A large number of their wounded were brought off the field in our ambulances, and cared for by our surgeons. At one of their hospitals some of our wounded had been taken, and the officers in charge having forgotten to parole them, a brigadier-general returned on Friday morning to do so, and had gone but a few minutes, when a cavalry soldier appeared, gave chase, firing his revolver at the flying rebel, but without effect.

An incident is related of a boy belonging to the 9th New-York regiment, whose name could not be ascertained, who stood in front of his regiment while it engaged the enemy at short range, in which position he fired all his cartridges, then took his dead comrades' cartridge-box and fired the entire contents—in all 95 rounds—without receiving a scratch the whole time, notwithstanding the ground was covered with dead and wounded all around him. The regiment was ordered to charge a rifle-pit where the Rebels were concealed, and our young hero was the first who entered it, the enemy flying at the approach of the bayonet.

The loss of the Rebels in this battle was very heavy, and evidently exceeded ours. A wounded soldier of the 2d North Carolina said his regiment left Richmond a month ago 700 strong, and on Thursday morning could muster only 200.

A negro who was captured, and who knows Jackson well, states that he saw him with his arm in a sling on Friday, upon the field. Gen. Stark was killed. One of the prisoners states that Gen. Joe Johnston died recently at Richmond of wounds received at Fair Oaks.

FREDERICK, Saturday, Sept. 20, 1862.

Shelling was kept up at the enemy across the river, at Shepherdstown, until Friday night.

A report has come into Frederick that a force was crossing at Williamsport, and that a part of our army was sent to meet them. Heavy firing was heard at

noon to-day in that direction, and at Sharpsburg, but up to to-night no intelligence has been received from either place.

This morning, a delegation of twenty surgeons from New-York passed through Boonsborough on their way to the battle-field. A number of ladies also followed in ambulances, under charge of Miss Dix. The churches and other buildings in Boonsborough and Keedysville are full of our wounded, and the ladies of these places are cheerfully doing all in their power to alleviate their sufferings. The inhabitants in the vicinity of Frederick and Hagerstown are returning to their homes, and seem to be in great glee because the Rebels are driven across the river.

No pillaging was allowed by the Rebels previous to the battle of South Mountain, but after that they cleaned the country pretty thoroughly, particularly around Sharpsburg, almost every house in the town having been robbed, and goods which they could not use were destroyed. Many houses were riddled by bullets and shells, and several barns burned.

There is no evidence that either Longstreet or Lee was wounded in the battle of Wednesday.

The number of prisoners in our hands is about 2,000. At least 10,000 stand of arms were found on the field belonging to the enemy.

Col. Christian, of the 26th New-York, Acting Brigadier-General, in the place of Gen. Tower, who was wounded recently at Bull Run, has resigned, and Col. Lyle, of the 90th Pennsylvania, is now in command of the brigade, and will ably fill the position.

Extent of Our Losses—Arrival of Re-enforcements—The Events of Thursday.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ON THE FRONT, Thursday, Sept. 19, 1862—10 p. m.

A day of rest—such rest as can be found with three miles of dead men to bury, and thousands of wounded to bring from the field. A day of standing on the line where the battle closed—of intermittent sharp-shooting, occasional discharges of artillery, but no general skirmishing—no attempt to advance on either side.

The enemy is still here, apparently in strong force. Sorely pressed back yesterday, to-day he could not attack, and we have not. This morning, with the fresh arrivals, and one full corps not engaged yesterday, we could have thrown thirty or forty thousand new men into action. We have been waiting, it is said, for the troops to rest, for some kinds of exhausted ammunition to come forward, for re-enforcements to arrive. The troops are rested, the ammunition is received, the re-enforcements are here.

The newly-arrived divisions are sent up to the front; to-night, we have planted new batteries, and the general belief is that we attack in the morning. Will the enemy be here for another life-or-death struggle, or will he adopt his old policy, and improve the leisure we have given him, by stealing away in the night? He has no empty breastworks with which to endow us, but he can leave us a field ploughed with shot, drenched with blood, and thick with dead.

"A great victory," said Wellington, "is the most awful thing in the world except a great defeat." If yesterday's battle was not a great victory, at least it had all the terrible features of one. Our loss in Generals is unparalleled; and the Commander-in-Chief estimates the total of our killed and wounded at 10,000.

Many of the wounded have been taken back to Frederick, 18 miles. Keedysville and Boonsborough, with every house and barn in the adjacent country, are full of them; and large numbers are carried to Hagerstown, whence they will be carried by railroad to Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and New-York.

On the whole our troops behaved admirably. No great army ever did better. Every loyalist who saw how steadily and solidly they moved forward to encounter that terrific storm of iron and lead felt his heart swell with pride.

The opportunity for seeing the battle was unparalleled. A single stand-point commanded nearly the whole field from dawn to dark. No one who looked upon that wonderful panorama can describe it; neither can any who saw fought. Contrary to his usual policy, the enemy met us in open country, and we were pressed back. But every hill and valley, every corn-field, grove, and cluster of trees was fiercely fought for.

The artillery was unceasing; we could often count more than 60 guns to the minute; and the musketry was like the pattering of rain-drops in an April shower. On the great broken field were riderless horses and scattering men; clouds of dirt from shot and exploding shells, long dark lines of infantry swaying to and fro, with columns of smoke rising from their muskets—with flashes and white puffs from the batteries—on the sun shining brightly on all this scene of tumult, and beyond it, upon the dark rich woods, and the clear blue mountains, flows the Potomac.

And all the screaming of shot, and thundering of cannon, and whistling of balls, with the fearful carnage they brought, I saw no considerable breaking among our troops, save with several new regiments of French's division, in Sumner's corps. They fell back in confusion, losing considerable ground. True, it was ground we had won from the enemy, and Franklin afterward recovered the most of it, but not all. A narrow strip is still within the Rebel lines, and more remains disputed territory.

To-day on the front has been devoted mainly to the burying of the dead. In front of Richardson's (now Hancock's) division, at 4 p. m., a flag of truce was raised, and the sharpshooting ceased. On the debateable ground between our line and the enemy's, Gen. Hancock and Meagher rode over into a corn field and met Gen. Roger A. Pryor. Pryor stated that the flag had been raised by us, and asked if we desired permission to take our dead and wounded. Our Generals indignantly denied that the signal for a truce came from us, as we claimed the ground. They informed Pryor that we had been engaged during the whole day in bringing off and caring for both our own wounded and his, and suggested a cessation of sharpshooting until all the suffering could be removed. This he declined, though the ground is so exposed to our advance that the Rebels' line made no attempt to bring in their wounded, and in ten minutes the firing reopened.

In front of Conch's lines, by common consent, both the Rebels and our own soldiers were mingling freely, taking away the wounded. One of our regiments was within a quarter of a mile of a Rebel battery, and the ground near it was covered with spectators from our lines. Whenever the enemy detected any one using a field glass on his camp or battery, his sharpshooters made at once re-open, notwithstanding the informal truce.

A. D. R.

Incidents of the Battle of Sharpsburg, on the Left, and List of Wounded.

From Our Special Correspondent.

KEEDYSVILLE, Sept. 18, 1862.

The battle of yesterday was not as decisive a victory as many officers of high rank at first claimed it to be. Though we drove the enemy nearly two miles upon both right and left, and slept upon the battle ground with the Rebel dead lying all about us, no one can contend but that the enemy still held our center in check; and that he held his own, which was the key to his position, no one can likewise deny. The great battle which is to demonstrate whether Gen. Lee or Gen. McClellan is the ablest officer will probably be fought this afternoon or to-morrow.

This morning a flag of truce came from the enemy asking permission to bury his dead. It was peremptorily

See Night Post.

with the rest of our army, rested upon the ground they had won, inactive all day to-day. The silence of the Rebels to-day, so strikingly in contrast with the almost unceasing booming of cannon, shrieking of shell, and rattling of musketry, naturally impressed one with the feeling that the enemy had skedaddled in the night; but a cautious feeling and looking about during the day has convinced our Generals pretty satisfactorily that he maintains, in silence and as much secrecy as possible, the base of his original line—the long belt of woods, and the village of Sharpsburg, a mile or so in advance of our main line, and perhaps half a mile distant from our advance position. It may be asked why we didn't resume the attack this morning